

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility

April 19, 2016 4:00 – 6:00 pm

City Hall, Conference Room 12

Draft Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 4:06pm with Nate Besio volunteering to chair the meeting.

Committee members, City staff, and guests present – Nate Besio, Ron Redmond, Ralph Montefusco, Emily Bishop, Tom Charbonneau, Emma Allen, Ned Holt, Lauren Pyatt, Marcy Krumbine, Elaine Zimmerman, Michael Watson, Cleary Buckley, Gabriel Brunelle (guest), and Sam Handy.

Nate Besio reviewed the agenda with the group

Ron Redmond moved to approve the minutes. Approved by all.

Group noted that having minutes and minutes available to them a week in advance is helpful. Having them emailed to the group is also appreciated.

Tom Charbonneau gave update from HR about the positions and how EEO works at the City.

Nate asked that all upcoming City jobs be forwarded to him and he will send them out to this email networks.

Ralph Montefusco asked the group if we should reach out to Jazz Fest about any accessibility issues. Elaine Zimmerman is following up with Linda Little from Jazz Fest to see if they need any support from the committee about accessibility.

Elaine Zimmerman gave an update about Pedestrian Crosswalks and audibility issues. She contacted Dave Guerren and Sheila Thurston with the issues and received a prompt response.

Appointment process for the committee remains unclear. Lauren Pyatt will check in with Mayor's Office to get clarification on

- How many seats make up the committee
- What the term limits are and the appointment schedule
- What City departments or agencies need to be represented
- What constitutes quorum for the committee

Lauren will also look into what by-laws similar groups to this committee use, such as the NPA's, and send them to Ron Redmond to look into for the Committee.

Cleary asked who it is that's been making updates to the Accessibility Committee Facebook page and if it's someone currently serving. Ralph believes that it is Ellen Ziman, a former committee member, and will send her contact information to Lauren to reach out to. It's not what is being posted but that it's being run from someone not currently serving on the commission.

Emma Allen volunteered to help as an administrator of the page moving forward.

Cleary Buckley will look into the committee signing up for a non-profit account on FPF to make postings. Ralph asks that committee issues be posted in the CEDO BUZZ.

Ralph suggested that the committee needs to have more interaction with the City Council and committee members should be coming out to speak to any related consent agenda items. Gabriel Brunelle volunteered to attend as a committee representative in the future.

Emma Allen is following up with Cliff Cooper about the committee having a standing column in North Ave News.

Cleary suggested a list of possible issues/topics that the committee could focus on for the year.

They include the following:

- Snow removal
- City Employment
- Parking
- Family bathrooms
- Access surveys
- Permitting
- Housing
- Vision & Hearing Impairment
- Transportation and Taxis

Gabriel told the group that he's had continued issues with taxis in Burlington since he's opted to not use SSTA because of frustrations. When trying to use taxis in the city, the rates aren't the same for handicap accessible rides. He will be quoted one rate to begin and when he asks for it to be an accessible ride, he's quoted a higher rate, usually the rate that would get billed to Medicaid. Thinking about bringing these issues to the Taxi Committee.

Ned Holt noted that the City needs more help and advisement on the issue of snow removal. Cleary noted that Williston has gone above the required ADA regulations on issues related to

parking and snow removal. Ned said he would reach out to Williston to see if someone would be available to join us for an upcoming meeting.

More input from outside groups and the community on issues is something Cleary thinks is lacking on the committee.

Emma suggested that a way to structure our upcoming meetings could be to break them into quarterly sessions with meetings focusing on one central topic. The first meeting of the quarter would be the information gathering stage, where the group hears public comments on the issue. The second meeting would be the analysis phase, where speakers could you invited to present to the group on the topic. The last phase could be where the group focuses on outcomes and resolutions. Based on the information gathered and analyzed in the previous meetings, the committee could draft their recommendations to send to the Mayor on the issue.

Ron noted that there's a lot of power in recommendations and opportunities for engaging the media on issues in the future.

The committee could use Cleary's list of suggestions as their topics to cover for the future.

Transportation and Taxis will be the first topic covered by the group for the upcoming quarter.

Nate noted that there is an upcoming CCTA/SSTA meeting on ADA coming up and that the drivers for the organizations will be having additional training in issues related to the ADA. He has a survey that VCIL worked on about transportation that he can share with the group. He will also give CCTA and SSTA a heads up that the group is going to be discussing transportation issues in Burlington.

The committee will continue their monthly meetings moving forward.

The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, May 17th in CR 12 at City Hall.

Cleary will serve as chair of that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm.